

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A steam drum washing machine comprising:

a casing having a front and a rear;

a tub disposed in the casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub;

a drum rotatably mounted in the tub for rotation about a generally horizontal axis, the drum having a substantially cylindrical sidewall with opposing ends, one of the opposing ends having an opening and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum through the opening and the water is supplied into the drum;

a steam generator for heating the water to generate steam and supplying the generated steam into at least one of the tub and the drum, the steam generator being located between an outer side of the tub and an inner side of the casing; and

a water-supply unit that supplies the water into the tub and the steam generator, the water-supply unit comprising:

a water-supply valve assembly ~~disposed at one end of the~~ mounted to the rear of the casing for supplying the water;

a water-supply tube connected between the water-supply valve assembly and the steam generator, ~~thereby~~ the water being supplied to the steam generator separately from the tub; and

a steam tube having one end connected to the steam generator and the other end in communication with the inside of at least one of the tub and the drum for downwardly supplying the steam toward a center portion of at least one of the tub and the drum.

2. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steam generator comprises:

a container connected to the water-supply unit for storing the water; and

a heater mounted in the container for heating the water stored in the container.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a gasket located between the tub and the casing and wherein ~~the said other~~ end of the steam tube ~~disposed in the tub and the drum~~ penetrates through ~~the an~~ upper end of the gasket.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 18, wherein the steam generator includes an outlet tube connected to the steam tube, and an upper end of the outlet tube is disposed inside the steam storing space.

7. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 6, wherein the outlet tube is formed in the shape of a straight cylindrical pipe.

8. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the heater is horizontally disposed in the lower part of the container so that the heater can be submerged under the water even when the water is supplied into the container to a minimum water level.

9. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 8, wherein the heater is an electric heater formed in the shape of a curved pipe so that the heating surface area is increased.

10. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 42, wherein the inlet valve is a solenoid valve.

11. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the steam generator further comprises a temperature sensor for sensing the temperature inside the container to control the operation of the heater on the basis of the temperature inside the container.

12. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the steam generator further comprises a blowing fan mounted in the outlet tube or the steam tube for blowing the steam into the tub and the drum.

13. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the steam generator further comprises a wash-water flow restraining unit mounted in the container for restraining flow of the wash water stored in the container to maintain uniform water level in the container.

14. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 13, wherein the wash-water flow restraining unit comprises:

a first partition downwardly extended from the top of the container around the steam storing space; and

a second partition upwardly extended from the bottom of the container around the first partition.

15. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 14, wherein the first and second partitions are provided at the lower parts thereof with through-holes, respectively, for permitting flow of the water through the through-holes.

16. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steam generator is disposed above the tub between the tub and the casing.

17. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steam generator is disposed below the tub between the tub and the casing.

18. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the steam generator further comprises a steam storing space which includes an upwardly protruded portion of an upper part of the container for storing the generated steam.

19. (Currently Amended) A steam drum washing machine comprising:

a casing;

a tub disposed in the casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub;

a drum rotatably mounted in the tub for rotation about a generally horizontal axis, the drum having a substantially cylindrical sidewall with opposing ends, one of the opposing ends having an opening and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum through the opening and the water is supplied into the drum;

a steam generator for heating water to generate steam and supplying the steam into at least one of the tub and the drum, the steam generator being located between an outside surface of the tub and the drum an inner surface of the casing, and a top wall of the steam generator comprises a first portion extending above a second portion to form a steam storing space to store the generated steam; and

a water-supply unit that supplies the water into the tub and the steam generator, the water supply-unit comprising:

a water-supply valve assembly disposed at ~~one end of~~ the casing for supplying the water;

a water-supply tube connected between the water-supply valve assembly and the steam generator, ~~thereby the water being supplied to the steam generator separately from the tub;~~

an auxiliary water-supply tube connected between the water supply valve assembly and a detergent box assembly; and

a steam tube having one end in communication with the ~~storing space~~steam generator and the other end in communication with the inside of at least one of the tub and the drum for downwardly supplying the steam toward a center portion of at least one of the tub and the drum,

wherein the water-supply valve is configured to supply water to the auxiliary water-supply tube independent of the water supplied to the water-supply tube.

20-24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 19, further comprising a gasket located between the tub and the casing and wherein ~~the said other~~ end of the steam tube communicated with the inside of the at least one of the tub and the drum penetrates through the an upper end of the gasket.

26. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 25, wherein ~~the said other~~ end of the steam tube is formed in the shape of a nozzle for spraying the steam into the at least one of the tub and the drum.

27. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein ~~the said other~~ end of the steam tube is disposed in at least one of the tub and the drum.

28. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the steam generator is disposed below the tub between the tub and the casing.

29. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the steam generator is disposed above the tub between the tub and the casing.

30. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the water-supply unit is disposed in the casing.

31-41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the steam generator includes an inlet valve disposed between the water-supply unit and the container for supplying the water into the container.

43. (Previously Presented) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water supply unit further includes:

a detergent box assembly mounted between the water-supply valve assembly and the tub for storing a detergent; and

an auxiliary water-supply tube connected between the water-supply valve assembly and the detergent box assembly.

44. (Canceled).

45. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein said outer side of the tub is an outer circumferential side of the tub.

46. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein said outer side of the tub is an outer circumferential side of the tub.

47. (New) A steam drum washing machine comprising:

a casing;

a tub disposed in the casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub;

a drum rotatably mounted in the tub for rotation about a generally horizontal axis, the drum having a substantially cylindrical sidewall with opposing ends, one of the ends having an opening adapted so that clothes are put in the drum through the opening;

a steam generator for heating the water to generate steam and supplying the generated steam into at least one of the tub and the drum, the steam generator being located above the tub between an outer side of the tub and an inner side of the casing; and

a water-supply unit that supplies the water into the tub and the steam generator, the water-supply unit comprising:

- a water-supply valve assembly disposed at the casing for supplying the water;

- a water-supply tube connected between the water-supply valve assembly and the steam generator, the water being supplied to the steam generator separately from the tub; and

- a steam tube having one end connected to the steam generator and the other end in communication with the inside of at least one of the tub and the drum for downwardly supplying the steam toward a center portion of at least one of the tub and the drum, the steam tube having a portion extending toward an outer side of the tub from the steam generator, and the steam tube guiding steam into the tub through said other end of the steam tube.

48. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 47, wherein said outer side of the tub is an outer circumferential side of the tub.

49. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 47, wherein the steam generator comprises:

- a container connected to the water-supply unit for storing the water; and
- a heater mounted in the container for heating the water stored in the container.

50. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 47, further comprising a gasket located between the tub and the casing and wherein said other end of the steam tube penetrates through an upper end of the gasket .

51. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 50, wherein the steam generator further comprises a temperature sensor for sensing the temperature inside the container to control the operation of the heater on the basis of the temperature inside the container.

52. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 50, wherein the steam generator further comprises a blowing fan mounted the steam tube for blowing the steam into at least one of the tub and the drum.